

MORNING 126,055  
SUNDAY 121,413

## Views on Shelters Become Realistic

Seldom has any reporter probed so directly into the public mind on so sensitive and vital a topic as Samuel Lubell has done on the subject of Berlin, war and fallout shelters.

What Lubell, this newspaper's public opinion analyst, discovered brings a charge of both pride and dismay. We can be proud that typical Americans are prepared to hold firm against Red aggression in Berlin even to the point of plunging into catastrophic war.

At the same time, while insisting that we must risk war to stop Red enslavement of free peoples, many feel that it is not worth while to build fallout shelters because, as one put it, "If everybody is gone, I want to be gone too."

The most hopeful Lubell discovery is that this fatalism concerning shelters is shrinking. Three years ago, after the first Soviet Sputnik was launched, two out of three persons interviewed were against nuclear shelters. Today, Lubell reports, the building of shelters is favored by a four-to-three margin.

Perhaps now at last the urgings of President Kennedy, former President Eisenhower, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, Central Intelligence Agency chief Allen Dulles and many others will be heeded. Without such shelters, these men have told us, it is difficult to make Soviet leaders believe that we are actually prepared to go to war. Fallout shelters have been called "essential" by the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff both to our military defense and to our policy of seeking peace through deterrence of nuclear attack.

Hitherto, most Americans have not seemed to believe that the Soviets were sufficiently lunatic to push the world into war. Now the continued threats over Berlin and the absolute promise of a crisis this fall have changed many minds.

What must be realized is that the willingness to make war in defense of freedom coupled with unwillingness to seek shelter protection that could keep dozens of millions alive is "The Valor of Ignorance," to borrow an old book title. Everybody would not be "gone," if there are such shelters. As all responsible top American leaders have insisted, there should be a fallout shelter program. It may still not be too late.